

Vermont State Hospital
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
Minutes
August 24, 2006



Facilitator: Mary Beth Bizzari

Note taker: Caitlin Bright

Attendees: Anne Jerman, Kathleen Daye, Steve Barden, Fran Levine

- Agenda Topics:**
- Review and Approve Minutes
 - Committee Chair's Report
 - Update assessment on adverse drug reactions and medication events.
 - Renewed interest in getting clarity on where we are with these reports.
 - Standardized protocols
 - Revisiting our maximum doses for psychotropic medications
 - Enlisting participation from other hospitals to adopt same standard levels of psychotropic medication

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mary Beth Bizzari at 3:06 pm.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, which was duly seconded, and they were approved.

UPDATES:

Update on the new MedEx system: This needs some additional work regarding drug interactions. Mary Beth Bizzari will receive additional training on its use. This is currently only being used on the pharmacy computer.

REPORTS:

Adverse Drug Reaction and Med Events

The Committee reviewed the list of Med events for May, June and July. There was only one adverse drug reaction during this period; it took place in May.

There was some discussion regarding setting clear guidelines for when a reaction should be reported as an adverse drug reaction. It was decided that a better definition of Adverse Drug Reaction should be developed; suggested definition of "if medication is reduced or stopped as a

result of patient's reaction, an Adverse Drug Reaction must be reported." This will be given to the Medical Staff for their review.

Standardized Protocols

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee has decided to send on to the Medical Staff the question of whether the protocols for Lithium, Tegretol, and Valproate should still be used.

Maximum Doses for Psychotropic Medications

Mary Beth Bizzari presented last year's maximum dosage list, which shows dosages taken from Drug Facts and Comparisons from package inserts or other dosages approved by the Medical Staff on 7/20/05.

Any prescription for an amount above the maximum listed on the Maximum Dosage List will have to be confirmed with a second opinion from a VSH staff doctor. Prescriptions will not be dispensed or administered until the second opinion has been obtained by the prescribing doctor. A verbal confirmation will be accepted, but the written second opinion will need to be obtained by the end of the next business day or the pharmacy will not continue to dispense the dosage. In any case with polypharmacy, the Medical Staff must always get a second opinion. For any medication not listed on the Maximum Dosage List, the maximum dosage listed in the Nursing Drug Handbook will be the accepted maximum dosage.

Dr. Daye will design the form for the second opinion, and the form will be designed in triplicate, with one copy going to the patient chart, one to the Medical Director, one to the Pharmacy. This form will be brought before the appropriate committees when completed.

Formulary

Mary Beth Bizzari will update the Formulary and bring it to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the Medical Staff for review and to formalize. Anything listed in the Formulary will be available in the Pharmacy. If Med Staff need to prescribe something that is not in the Formulary, they should write the order and the Pharmacy will get it.

Blood Pressure Parameters

Currently, if there are no written parameters by the doctor, the VSH parameters automatically kick in. This is causing much unnecessary work on the units, especially in cases where doctors want no parameters, but the lack of written orders leads to the automatic parameter being used.

It was agreed by the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee that the pharmacy policy will now change to require for all cardiac medications, that the doctor must write in parameters or indicate that none are needed. If there is no parameter indicated, the nurses will call the doctor before administering the medication.

ACTION ITEMS:

New definition of Adverse Drug Reaction to be approved by the Med Staff.
Mary Beth Bizzari to review Maximum Dosages with Dr. Simpatico.

New form for second opinion on Maximum Dosages to be created by Dr. Daye.

NEXT MEETING:

The next P&T Committee meeting will be Thursday, October 26th from 3-4:30pm in the Medical Director's office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.